

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4238

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USCINCLANT

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS FROM NOVA LISBOA

1. QUOTE: IN THE COURSE OF MAJOR SPEECH AT A SEPTEMBER 21
POLITICAL RALLY AT BELA VISTA AND AGAIN THE FOLLOWING DAY
DURING A TAPED INTERVIEW WITH TWO BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS, UNITA
PRESIDENT JONAS SAVIMBI ASSERTED THAT HIS ARMS SUPPLY PROBLEMS
HAD BEEN SOLVED. IN HIS SPEECH HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ARMS
SHIPMENTS WERE NOW ARRIVING REGULARLY AND SOON WOULD BE PORING
INTO UNITA'S HANDS. UNITA SAVIMBI SAID, WOULD SOON BE ABLE TO
MATCH MPLA WEAPON FOR WEAPON AND WOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT
SYPLIES TO ARM THE CITIZENS FOR A WAR OF 3-4 YEARS
DURATION. IN THE INTERVIEW, SAVIMBI SAID THAT HE NO LONGER HAD
A PROBLEM OF SUPPLY OF ARMS AND OTHER WAR MATERIEL THAT ARMS
SHIPMENTS WERE ARRIVNG REGULARLY BY ROAD AND BY AIR. HE DECLINED
TO IDENTIFY THE COUNTRIES WHICH WERE SUPPLYING THE ARMS EXCEPT
TO SAY THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE. TURNING A FOLLOW-UP QUESTION ON
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THIS POINT, SAVIMBI SAID THAT UNITA AGENTS HAD VISITED MANY

COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, AMERICA AND EUROPE AND HAD SUCCEEDED IN ASSURING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF MEDICINE. ASKED AGAIN TO SPECIFY WHICH AFRICAN COUNTRIES WERE ASSISTING UNITA, SAVIMBI SAID THAT OVER THE PAST NINE MONTHS ALMOST EVERY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN COUNTRY HAD SUPPLIED SOME ASSISTANCE.

2. OTHER POINTS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST MADE BY SAVIMBI DURING THE SPEECH AND THE INTERVIEW INCLUDE:

3. MEETINGS WITH MPLA AND FNLA: IN THE SPEECH, SAVIMBI IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT ATTEND ANY MORE OUTSIDE-SPONSORED MEETINGS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN ANGOLA. HE SAID THAT HE HAD GONE TO KAMPALA AND LUSAKA PREPARED TO TALK BUT THAT THE MPLA AND FNLA DID NOT SHOW UP FOR EITHER MEETING. NOW, EVEN IF THEY WERE PREPARED TO ATTEND ANOTHER SUCH MEETING HE WOULD NOT GO. THE IMPRESSION LEFT WITH HIS AUDIENCE WAS THAT UNITA WOULD NOT ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL ITS MILITARY SITUATION HAD IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY. HE CLARIFIED HIS POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS IN THE INTERVIEW, PROFESSING GREAT CONTINUING INTEREST IN NEGOTIATIONS IN THE INTERVIEW, PROFESSING GREAT CONTINUING INTEREST IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MPLA AND FNLA BUT INSISTING THAT HE WOULD NOT PREVIOUSLY AGREED-UPON AGENDA. WITHOUT GREAT ADVANCE PREPARATION ANY SUCH MEETING WOULD BE FRUITLESS AND A WASTE OF TIME.

4. MILITARY SITUATION: SAVIMBI TOLD THE CORRESPONDENT THAT UNITA'S MILITARY SITUATION COULD ONLY IMPROVE. UNITA HAD SUFFERED VERY SERIOUS REVERSES IN THE LOSS OF SA DA BANDEIRA, LOBITO, BENGUELA, MOCAMEDES, ETC. WHICH WERE ALL AREAS OF UNITA'S POLITICAL STRENGTH. BETWEEN NOW AND NOVEMBER 11 UNITA AND THE FNLA WOULD MAKE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO REGAIN CONTROL OF AREAS THEY HAD LOST WHILE THE MPLA WOULD OBVIOUSLY MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO HOLD ON TO WHAT IT HAS NOW AND EXERCISE ITS TERRITORIAL CONTROL EVEN MORE. THE MPLA HAD AS MUCH CHANCE OF REACHING NOVA LISBOA AS UNITA HAD OF REACHING LUANDA. THE OBJECTIVE OF UNITA AND FNLA WAS TO REGAIN POSSESSION OF LOST TERRITORIES AND THEN LOOK FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION.

5. BENGUELA RAILWAY: SAVIMBI ADMITTED THAT LOBITO WAS UNITA'S SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT MILITARY OBJECTIVE. HE SAID UNITA WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHORTLY LAUNCH A DRIVE TO RECAPTURE LOBITO AND THAT THE FIGHTING WOULD BE ROUGH. NEVERTHELESS, REOPENING OF BENGUELA RAILWAY WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO UNITA SO LOBITO HAD TO BE RETAKEN. SAVIMBI SAID THAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE RAILROAD HAD PROPOSED THAT IT BE REOPENED BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNITA AND THE MPLA. YAVIMBIDUBTED THAT THIS COULD BE IMPLEMENTED UNLESS THE FIGHTING STOPPED.

6. AGREEMENT WITH FNLA: SAVIMBI DENIED THAT THERE EXISTED ANY AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNITA AND FNLA. HE HAD NOT EVEN SEEN HOLDEN ROBERTO ON HIS RECENT TRIPS TO KINSHAS AND DID NOT DISCUSS OR COORDINATE WITH ROBERTO HIS MILITARY OR POLITICAL PLANS OR STRATEGIES. FNLA'S PRESENCE IN NOVA LISBOA WAS NOT A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE TO UNITA AND HE HAD NO REASON TO ASK THEM TO LEAVE.

7. UNITA ARMY: SAVIMBI SAID UNITA HAD 40,000 SOLDIERS ALTOGETHER, 10-15,000 OF WHOM AERE TRAINED. KILDAY UNQUOTE
KILLORAN

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